

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated June 13, 2003 and identified as Paper No. 3. This response amends claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 12, cancels claims 2, 3 and 11 and adds new claims 14-16. Thus, claims 1, 4-10 and 12-16 remain in the application of which claims 1, 9 and 14 are the only independent claims. Favorable consideration of the claims as amended is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner rejected the claims as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,509,174 to Worrell and French Patent No. 27410444. Neither of these references is directed to the concept of allowing a consumer to conveniently alter the appearance of their furniture and cabinet hardware through the simple replacement of a fascia member. The prior art references show nothing more than removable caps which have functional rather than an aesthetic properties. The claims as amended more clearly define the removable fascia of the hardware piece.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended patentably define the present invention over the references of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the instant

application is in condition for formal allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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